

S P E E C H

OF

MR. ROBERT SMITH, OF ILLINOIS,

ON THE BILL TO

INCREASE THE PAY OF THE ARMY.

DELIVERED

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1847.

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PAY OF THE ARMY.

In Committee of the Whole on the Bill to increase the pay of the Non-commissioned Officers, Musicians, and Privates, of the Army of the United States, and the Militia and Volunteers in the service of the same, and allowing them Bounty Land in certain cases—

Mr. SMITH, of Illinois, said it was always with reluctance that he rose to address the House or the committee, and he never did so unless he felt it to be his imperative duty. He could not let this opportunity pass, without giving his views briefly upon the bill now under consideration. He said that there was a peculiar propriety in his doing so, for there are more of his constituents now in the army in Mexico than from any other Congressional district in the Union; and (said Mr. S.) a more patriotic and intelligent body of men cannot be found in any portion of our country. He had a high opinion of the ability and talent of the members of the two Houses of Congress; and he did not feel that he was doing honorable members of either House injustice, in saying, that there were men among these volunteers, who were their equals in every respect. The bill under consideration was to fix the compensation of the gallant soldiers now fighting our battles in Mexico, and of other troops yet to be called into the service. And he confessed that he did not see any good reason why the disparity in the pay of public servants, should be so very great between those who serve in these Halls, and those who serve in the tented field. He was for lessening this difference by increasing the pay of the soldiers.

Mr. S. did not like the bill reported by the honorable gentleman from the Committee on Military Affairs, [Mr. BOYD,] nor the substitute reported by the select committee; and he certainly would not vote for either of these propositions, if any one more favorable to the soldier could be passed. He had submitted an amendment which, at the proper time, he should offer as a substitute for the original bill.* He proposed to raise the pay of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, three dollars per month each, from the commencement of the war with Mexico until the termination thereof, making the pay of the soldier ten dollars per month. This, he thought, was as small a sum as the Government ought to ask her patriotic sons

to peril their lives in defence of our national honor for, and it was perhaps as much as the state of our finances would warrant the Government in promising to pay. He deprecated the policy which would refuse to pay liberally the gallant and chivalrous soldiers who volunteer in the defence of the country; and he ventured the prediction that the people would pay, cheerfully and promptly, any and all debts necessarily incurred in the prosecution of this war. He might be told that ten dollars per month for men, *sick* or *well*, with the care taken of them by and at the expense of the Government, was high wages; but notwithstanding all the Government furnished them, and did for them, there were many things, both in sickness and in health, that the soldier was obliged to buy at very exorbitant prices. It must be recollected that this war was being prosecuted in the enemy's country, and in a sickly country too, and where everything was extravagantly high. He was certain that no man would go into the army at ten dollars per month to make money, and he did not think that any gentleman could refuse to vote for that sum. He had received letters from officers and soldiers, now in the army in Mexico, who went from his district, detailing the privations and hardships encountered by them in the service. Two of the regiments from his State were ordered to land at La Baca and march to San Antonio de Bexar. They were landed in this low, unhealthy climate, in the most sickly season of the year, and at a time when the whole country around was covered with water. They commenced their march through a region prolific in poisonous insects and venomous reptiles, which infested their camps by night, and annoyed them by day. Under such unfavorable circumstances, these men commenced and performed a march of more than eight hundred miles, sometimes through country overflowed with water, and at other times over a country where there was not one drop to quench the parching thirst of the weary and wayworn soldier, and where the horses and mules attached to the army fell dead on the march for lack of water. Many times their rations consisted of poor salt beef and pork, and coarse, sour, Mexican flour. All these hardships and privations, ten times more galling and perilous than the sword of the Mexicans, these men endured with firmness and without a murmur or complaint. They have shown a devotion and

* See note at the end.

love of country seldom equalled and never surpassed. Two other regiments from Illinois, equally or even more unfortunate, were ordered to the Rio Grande, and there compelled to remain in a listless and inglorious inactivity, upon the banks of that sickly stream, whose pestilential atmosphere was more destructive to their ranks than was the sword of the enemy to the gallant troops who fought the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, or who stormed the city of Monterey.

Sir, (said Mr. S.,) the patient endurance and patriotic devotion to the honor of our nation, shown by the volunteers who have been so unfortunate as not to meet the enemy in the field of battle, and the noble deeds of daring of their more fortunate brethren, who have met the enemy and signally vanquished them, deserve the highest praise. The annals of history do not furnish prouder instances of self-sacrifice, or nobler or more patriotic devotion to country, than that shown by the gallant officers and soldiers of our army in Mexico.

Mr. S. was in favor of giving to those who had inlisted or volunteered, or who might inlist or volunteer, for five years, or during the war, a bounty of fifteen dollars. To those who may hereafter inlist or volunteer, this money will enable them to procure such an outfit as will make them comfortable in the camp. He proposed to give grants of land to all those who had served, or might serve, in the war with Mexico. To those who have inlisted or volunteered to serve for a less term than five years, or during the war, he would give one hundred and sixty acres of the public lands; and to those who volunteered or inlisted to serve for five years, or during the war, he would give three hundred and twenty acres of land.

Whilst some gentlemen oppose an increase in the monthly pay of the army on account of the *lean* state of the treasury, they cannot urge that objection to making liberal grants of land to those who fight our battles. We can make these grants without feeling it. It will hardly be missed from the millions of acres of the national domain now lying waste and unproductive. These lands will furnish homes to the brave men who march to the battle-field in the defence of their country, provided they are spared to return; and if not, it will go to their children or heirs.

Let the Government show a liberal and magnanimous policy to those who will inlist or volunteer to fight our battles, and it would have a tendency to fill up the ranks of our army. He was for the land bounty, as a reward for the patriotic intention of the men who inlisted or volunteered, and who devoted themselves to the service of their country; he was in favor of giving lands to all those gallant men, who, at the call of their Government, rallied around the standard of the country, and marched to the seat of war.

Mr. S. was willing to make a difference in the donation, to correspond, in some measure, with the proposed term of service; but he insisted upon giving lands to all who had inlisted or volunteered, and actually gone, in good faith, to meet the enemy. It was true that many of these brave men had been mustered into service and started for the seat of war, and were taken sick on the route, and discharged

and sent home before reaching the enemy's country, and in many cases, against their wishes; and would gentlemen deprive these patriotic men of a donation of land because they had been prevented, by sickness, from serving out the term for which they had entered the service? Did any one doubt but that these men were anxious to serve out the term for which they entered the army? Were they to be refused this boon because they were so unfortunate as to be stricken down with sickness, and thus prevented from marching with their gallant comrades in arms to the battle-field, to fight for glory and the honor of their country, when the manifest design of these grants was as a reward for the patriotic *intention* of the soldier who volunteered to do battle in defence of his country's rights?

Mr. S. knew many noble and gallant young men who joined the army with high hopes; who left their homes in the full strength of manhood; who had, by sickness and fatigue, been reduced to the mere shadows of men, and had been discharged by their officers as unfit for duty—honorably discharged, to be sure, but against their will. They would have preferred remaining in camp, with a hope of recovery and the prospect of active service, or to have died in the field or in the camp. Some of these patriotic men died before reaching their homes, and others are still suffering from the effects of the sickness incurred in their country's service. And was he to be told that this Government was not able to donate lands to these poor but unfortunate soldiers, or to the children and heirs of those who died in the service? He could not believe that such would be the decision of the committee. He would not believe these grants would be refused, whilst we had, within the States and Territories of the United States, more than 900,000,000 acres of unsold lands. Mr. S. said it might grow out of the fact of his living in the West, that he was opposed to hoarding these lands as a great treasure, and to holding them at the highest possible price that the Government could extort from the honest tiller of the soil; but be that as it might, he was now, and always had been, in favor of placing it in the power of every man who would cultivate the earth to become the owner of a reasonable portion of land. And he did not know how we could dispose of a part of our vast possessions better than by donating a small portion of it to the bold and patriotic men who volunteered or inlisted to fight our battles.

Was there a member, Mr. S. would ask, in that Hall, who would withhold these grants of land from the *noble* and *gallant men* who leave their homes, and kindred, and the thousand ties and endearments which surrounded them, and rally under the flag of their country, to redress the many and flagrant wrongs which we have received from the insolent Mexicans? He hoped not.

The honorable gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Vinton] objected to grants of land being given to the soldiers, because speculators would buy up their warrants for little or nothing, and then, by throwing these warrants into the market, they would cut off all receipts into the treasury from the sales of the public lands. The honorable gentleman said he preferred giving to the soldiers "stock

certificates," bearing interest, for such sum as he presumed the soldier would realize from the speculator for his land warrant—say fifty dollars. Mr. S. said he thought the gentleman from Ohio mistaken in relation to this matter. He believed speculators would shave "stock certificates" at the same rate they would land warrants. The warrants issued to the soldiers should be in such form as to make them most available to the soldier. He should be left free to locate his warrant upon any lands belonging to the Government and subject to sale, and at such time as might best promote his interest or convenience. Any restrictions in relation to the location, or transfer of the warrant, would lessen the value of the grant, and of course destroy one of the principal objects contemplated by the bill now under consideration. He was for giving the soldier full power to make the most out of this land bounty that he could.

Mr. S. said that gentlemen had urged against these grants of land the fact that the land given to the soldiers of the last war was of little or no value to them. This he was ready to admit. He would even go further: he believed those grants, instead of benefiting the soldiers or their heirs, had injured them; for many persons, after being at great expense in paying taxes for years, at last, by their own negligence or the carelessness of an agent, had had their lands sold for taxes, and thus lost them. The condition of the country was now different. Then but little was known of the territory set apart for the location of bounty land warrants. The great majority of the soldiers of the late war were from the old States. Not so now. The States in which there are Government lands, furnish their full proportion of soldiers, who know the value of the lands, and will not part with them for less than their value. The communication now between the different portions of the Union is so frequent and easy, that there is no difficulty in communicating from one portion of the Union to another; and the soldier from New England, who did not wish to settle upon the land granted to him for his services in the war, could, at a trifling expense, learn the precise value of his land warrant, and might convert it into money at a very small expense.

Mr. S. did not concur in the opinion expressed by some gentlemen, that the soldier must be prohibited from selling or transferring his warrant, to protect him from sharpers and speculators. It was very probable that there might be some men in the army who would imprudently and foolishly part with not only their lands, but their monthly pay; but, so far as the volunteers from his State were concerned, he was proud to say that they were intelligent, honest, temperate, and highly respectable men. They did not need guardians to take charge of the land or the money the Government might pay them for their services. A class of better men could not be found in any community, and he would not so far insult or question their judgment as to dictate to them what they should do with their own dear-bought treasure—earned, perhaps, by the loss of a limb, or at the sacrifice of a broken constitution.

Did gentlemen grudge these men a few acres of the national domain, while millions of acres were

lying waste? The honorable gentlemen from New York [Mr. RATHBUN] and Ohio, [Mr. VINTON,] seemed to think that before making any provision for raising the pay of the army or granting lands, we should first provide the means. This argument may be sound (said Mr. S.) so far as raising the monthly pay is concerned, but did not apply to the land bounty. The Government had land enough and to spare, and he had yet to learn that our Government could not raise the money necessary to prosecute the war, even though the pay of the soldier should be raised to ten dollars per month. Sir, is there any member of this House who has so low an estimate of the patriotism of his countrymen as to suppose that they would not, when all other legitimate sources of revenue fail, cheerfully pay a *direct tax* to prosecute this war with energy to an honorable peace? He hoped no one doubted for a moment the will or the ability of the country to furnish promptly and cheerfully the means to carry on the war. And to say that if land-warrants were issued to our soldiers that they would fall into the hands of the speculator, and then they would "dry up the land revenue, and prevent our getting a loan," was certainly showing that our credit hung upon a frail thread. He did not believe any such doctrine. If the raising of money to carry on the war depended upon raising two or three millions of dollars from the sales of the public lands, our credit was at a low ebb, and the sooner we ceased making appropriations the better for us. He believed the credit of the nation rested upon the honesty, energy, and ability of her citizens, who have always been found equal to any exigency. And if one hundred millions of dollars should be necessary to prosecute this war to an honorable peace, he had full faith that it could be raised, and that the interest could be paid, the soldiers' warrants to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sir, (said Mr. S.) is this great and powerful nation, with more than twenty millions of souls, blessed with everything which constitutes wealth and prosperity, to be forced, in order to carry on a war with the weak and distracted republic of Mexico, to grind down the brave soldiers who rush to the battle-field, to a mere pittance—to simply the price for the most menial labor? Will not the Government show a liberality and generosity corresponding to that of her chivalrous sons? He hoped it would. He was ready to vote for any measure and all measures necessary to raise the money to carry on this war, until it can be terminated with honor to the nation. Much had been said in relation to this Mexican war, its expediency and policy. It had by some been denounced as "unholy, unrighteous, and *damnable*." The President had been abused in no measured terms, for adopting precautionary measures to defend territory over which we had exercised jurisdiction, and over citizens we were in honor bound to protect. And while he did not design to make a partisan speech, he could not in justice refrain from saying, that with whatever *sins* the President might be *charged*, he did not think he could be justly charged (in ordering General Taylor to the Rio Grande) with *unnecessarily* involving us in a war with Mexico. Whilst Mr. S. did not believe that we would gain

any honor by prosecuting a war against Mexico, and whilst he believed it was our duty to make all reasonable exertions to prevent the catastrophe of a war, he did believe there was a point beyond which forbearance ceased to be a virtue. He believed our Government had used all the means and exertions to bring our difficulties with Mexico to a close that the laws of civilized and Christian nations required, and he believed that had we shown less forbearance towards Mexico, we would have been more likely to have settled our differences with that Government. They misconceived our magnanimity and forbearance, and attributed it to a fear of their *prowess*, and hence their stubborn refusal to adjust the matters in dispute. He did not design to go into particulars, but he would say, that in the *main* he approved of the course pursued by the President in relation to the war with Mexico. At any rate, if he found fault, it would be, not that the President had pressed the war too vigorously, but that he had not pushed it with sufficient energy. He concurred in the remarks of the honorable Senator from Missouri [Mr. BENTON] on yesterday. When speaking of his plan for conducting this war, he said: "I will not state my plan, but I will say of it, that, besides intending a *result*, it proposed to 'carry on the war, while there was war, according to the usage of all nations in the case of invasive war—the invaders to be paid and subsisted by the invaded. Contributions regularly levied—duties regularly collected—would accomplish these objects, and leave the United States free, or nearly free, from the expense of the war.'" He believed it was the true policy of our Government to make our enemies feel all the evils and burdens of civilized warfare, in order to bring the war to a speedy close. He was informed by intelligent gentlemen now in the army in Mexico, that the inhabitants of the Mexican cities vied with each other in their efforts to induce our army, while marching through their territory, to visit their respective cities in their route. This was certainly a novel event in the history of invasive war. And how was it to be accounted for? Why, simply because they made money by it. Our army purchased everything they had to sell at three times the prices they had been in the habit of selling the same for before, and they were growing rich by the operation. While this state of things lasted, we never would bring this war to a close. He was, therefore, for a more rigid adherence to the usages of invasive warfare, and a more vigorous prosecution of the war.

But, said Mr. S., so far as gentlemen on the other side of the House, in their opposition to the war and to the President, confined themselves within the rules of decorum and of courtesy in debate, he certainly would not complain. It was the privilege and the duty of the representative, in an independent republic, to speak out freely and boldly upon all questions where the honor and the welfare of the country were at stake; but it was equally incumbent upon them to keep within the bounds of propriety. There was a certain dignity and courtesy in debate, which gentlemen should not forget, and should not transcend. It was not to be expected on great questions, that all men (equally honest) would agree; and it could not and ought not to be expected on this question of the Mexican war,

that both the political parties in this country would think precisely alike, either as to the propriety of its commencement, or as to the manner in which it should be prosecuted after we were engaged in it; and certainly this difference of opinion ought not to subject the members of either party to the charge of dishonesty of intention or want of patriotism. He must confess he conceded to gentlemen a good share of *nerve*, if not an overstock of patriotism who opposed this war. We were now engaged in the war, and so far as bringing it to an honorable conclusion was concerned, it mattered not whether it was justly or unjustly commenced: all should now unite in bringing it to an honorable termination. He, however, believed that the *great majority* of the people would have voted, if they had been called upon, for the bill of the 13th of May, providing for raising fifty thousand men and ten millions of dollars, to prosecute a war against Mexico. He would go further: he believed a majority of the Whig party, if left free to exercise their patriotic devotion to the honor of the nation, would have sustained that act, and approved of the course of the Administration, so far as related to the commencement of the Mexican war; and he believed those gentlemen who were now opposing the war, and throwing obstacles in the way of a united and vigorous prosecution of it, had a fearful account to settle with their constituents. What would gentlemen do, he would ask, if any member upon the other side of that Hall would propose to withdraw our troops from Mexico, and our naval force from the coast, while things remained as at present? He could not believe that any such proposition would be proposed by any one. He then again asked, what were we to do? Was it becoming in a member of an American Congress, in time of war, to be proclaiming the injustice of his own Government in prosecuting a war against our enemies? What must and would be the effect of such a course? Why, surely, (said Mr. S.,) it must stimulate our enemies to renewed energies in their hostilities against us. It was much easier to find fault with what others had done, than to show that, in like circumstances, we would have done better; and, in his opinion, let the enemies of the Administration make out the most unfavorable state of the case their fertile imaginations can invent, and still more good than evil will result from this war. Mr. S. contended that we had no alternative left to redress the many wrongs and outrages committed by Mexico but a resort to arms: all pacific means had been exhausted; and if we had longer tamely borne these indignities, we would have been disgraced in the eyes of all civilized and enlightened nations. Gentlemen may talk of the expense of this war, of the cruelty and misery consequent upon all wars, of the vast sacrifice of human life which must necessarily result from its prosecution; and were it even greater than it can be shown to be, the good would far exceed the evil. Let the war terminate as it might, it would revolutionize Mexico: it would tend to enlighten and civilize them, and, he hoped, to Christianize them. He had no hesitation in saying that the provinces conquered by our troops had at this time a better government than they ever had before under the laws of Mexico; that the people were happier, and

enjoyed more liberty; that life and property were more secure than under the Government of Mexico; and he was surprised to hear gentlemen, who were on many occasions very *philanthropic* in conferring liberty on certain *classes*, condemning this war which must result favorably to the cause of civilization and the extension of republican principles, at least so far as to confer its benefits upon the conquered country. He contended that it was unpatriotic, now that we were in the war, to do anything, or say anything, that would tend to protract it, or place our Government in the wrong. If error has been committed, is any good to result from sounding it upon the house-tops? The first and great object should be, to bring the war to a close as speedily as it could be without compromising the rights of our citizens, and the honor of the nation. In order to accomplish this, we should show an unbroken and undivided front. If Mexico thinks she is sustained or countenanced by one of the political parties in this nation, will she be likely to make peace? No one could suppose it. If reports of the proceedings of the Mexican Congress can be relied on, our dissensions and divisions in relation to this war, are urged as a strong reason why Mexico should refuse any proposals for peace. While such a state of things exists, there can be no hope of terminating this war favorably. This never can or will be brought about until Mexico is made to feel our power and her own weakness, and that is only to be accomplished by prosecuting this war with energy. Reason and argument have no influence or weight with the Mexican Government. Justice and equity, it would seem, are unknown to them. The contemptible and vacillating policy pursued by that Government towards Texas, shows that they have not the spirit of an enlightened and independent people, nor the bold and noble daring to prosecute an open and manly warfare. They waged a predatory and bandit warfare upon Texas for nearly ten years; but populous and rich as was Mexico, and few and scattered as were the Texans, they dared not, after the battle of San Jacinto, openly invade Texas: nor had they the magnanimity to acknowledge their independence, although it was acknowledged by nearly all the civilized Governments of Europe.

He believed that those who considered this an unjust war on our part, and that Mexico was in the right, were doing that Government an injury, by taking such a course as would induce them to continue the war, and refuse to make peace. The prosperity, ay, the very existence of Mexico as a republic, must depend upon friendly relations with the United States. Although much had been said in the heat of debate, by those opposed to the Administration, denunciatory of the war—of its commencement, and prosecution, yet, he could not believe that any gentleman on the other side entertained the opinion that the President or the Democratic party were actuated in commencing, and in prosecuting this war by a spirit of conquest, or with any other feeling than to compel Mexico to do what she ought to have done without driving us into a war to enforce our rights.

Mr. S. said that when the bill for raising ten additional regiments was under consideration, he

was unable to get the floor to give his reasons for the course he felt it his duty to take on that bill; and he should now say a word in relation to the efficiency of the volunteer force at present in the service of the country, and the policy of prosecuting the war. He said he considered we were driven into the war with Mexico; and he, for one, was willing to go all reasonable lengths by his votes for raising men and money to prosecute the war with energy until an honorable peace was brought about, or until we should have obtained from Mexico a full and entire indemnity for all outrages committed by them, either upon our Government or our citizens. He was anxious to sustain the recommendations of the President in all the measures he deemed necessary for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and he would do so as far as he could, without a violation of his duty to his constituents and his own sense of propriety and justice. He was one of those who believed that in time of actual war, the men who periled their lives in fighting the battles of our country, and defending our national honor, ought to have the right to select the officers who were to command them. So far as he knew, or could learn, he believed that the officers selected and commissioned in the Illinois volunteer regiments were able and efficient, and in his opinion better than could possibly have been selected by the President; and if reports from the army were entitled to credit, there were no better drilled or disciplined troops in the army, than were to be found among the volunteers from his State. And (said Mr. S.) give them but an opportunity to fight, and if they do not acquit themselves as gallantly as the soldiers in the regular army, he would acknowledge himself entirely mistaken in his estimate of the efficiency of volunteer troops. It was not his intention to single out the volunteers from his own State; he only spoke of them because he knew them well, and knew that they were brave and gallant spirits, and that, in their keeping, the honor of our country would not be tarnished, nor the proud flag of our republic trampled under foot by our enemies. If any doubt had remained in the mind of any gentleman in relation to the efficiency of volunteer troops before the capture of Monterey, that doubt had now, he trusted, vanished. The noble and gallant deeds of the volunteers from Maryland, Tennessee, Mississippi, Ohio, Kentucky, and Texas, who were engaged at the siege of Monterey, would have done honor to the veteran troops of Wellington, or to the impetuous and daring soldiers of Napoleon. And (said Mr. S.) are we to be told that such men as fought at Monterey, are not the right kind of material of which to form soldiers, or to increase your army? But the honorable gentleman from Mississippi, [Mr. THOMPSON,] in his eloquent speech a few days since, did these gallant men justice, and renders it unnecessary for me to add anything to what has been so well said by him. Mr. S. did not wish to do injustice to the regular army. They needed no eulogy from him. A simple history of the battles of the 8th and 9th of May last, would be the highest tribute of praise that could be bestowed on those brave men.

Mr. S. said, that although Illinois furnished at the call of the President, in May last, four regiments,

which were accepted, and mustered into service, he felt it due to the patriotism of the people of the State to say, that more than double the number accepted were tendered to the Governor. Many of the companies then raised had preserved their organization, and now held themselves in readiness to respond to the call of the Government for more volunteers, and march to the seat of war. But if they were to be deprived of selecting the officers who were to lead them to battle, he feared it might dishearten them, and prevent their entering the service. Sir, (said Mr. S.,) the district which I have the honor to represent, furnished more than one full regiment, which is now in the field; and if more volunteers were wanted, he would guaranty that another regiment would be raised within two weeks from the time the call reached the district, to serve for five years, or during the war. He felt anxious to give these patriotic citizens an opportunity to distinguish themselves in the defence of our national rights and national honor. These men believe the war to be just; they believe the Mexicans deserve to be severely chastised for the outrages they have committed upon our citizens, and they would fight with a will to redress our wrongs. He felt it his duty to say this much, in justification of his preference for the volunteer over the regular service.

[The following is the substitute Mr. SMITH designed to offer for the bill before the committee:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, from the commencement of the war with Mexico, until the termination thereof, the monthly pay of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, of the army of the United

States, and the militia and volunteers in the service, shall be increased three dollars per month each.

"SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That each volunteer, non-commissioned officer, musician, and private, who has volunteered or who may volunteer for a period less than during the war, and who shall have gone or may go into actual service and remain until he is honorably discharged, shall be entitled to a warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land belonging to the United States, and subject to entry.

"SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed and paid to each non-commissioned officer, musician, and private, who, since the first day of May last, may have enlisted or volunteered, or who shall enlist or volunteer in the service of the United States for a period of five years or during the war with Mexico, a bounty of fifteen dollars; but to those who may hereafter enlist or volunteer, the payment of ten dollars of said bounty shall be withheld until the soldier enlisting shall join the corps in which he is to serve, and the soldier volunteering shall be mustered into the service of the United States.

"SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That each non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, in the army of the United States at the commencement of the war with Mexico, or who shall enlist in the army or volunteer in the service of the United States for a period of five years, or during the existence of the war with Mexico, and who shall serve until the termination of said war, or until honorably discharged from the army, shall be entitled to a warrant for three hundred and twenty acres of land belonging to the United States subject to entry.

"SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the widow, if there be one, if there be no widow, then the child or children, if there be any, and if there be no child, then the father or mother, if there be either, and if there be neither father nor mother, then the brothers and sisters of any non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, of the army of the United States, or militia or volunteers in the same, who has been or may be killed in battle, or has died in service during the war with Mexico, or who has died or may die of wounds received, or sickness or disease incurred while in the service of the United States, after their discharge from the army, shall be entitled to a warrant for the same quantity of land to which such non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, of the army of the United States, or militia or volunteers, would have been entitled under the second and fourth sections of this act, and shall be entitled to locate the same upon any land in the United States subject to entry."